GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2371
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2015
Amenities at Tea Gardens in Assam
Tasa Shri Kamakhya Prasad

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether there are many tea gardens in Assam which do not have proper road connectivity and drinking water facilities;
b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
c) whether the Government has implemented any scheme or issued any order to the tea garden management to make well connected roads and provide drinking water facilities to workers; and
d) if so, the details thereof including any other steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)
(a) & (b): As most of the tea gardens in Assam are located in remote areas, the infrastructural facilities and connectivity to such areas is at times less than adequate. However, the Plantation Labour Act, (PLA) 1951 mandates the tea estates to provide basic welfare services and amenities e.g. housing, health facilities and primary education, water supply, sanitation etc. to the tea workers. Simultaneously, the construction and maintenance of the roads outside the tea gardens is undertaken by the State Governments. The facilities to be provided under the PLA are also monitored and governed by the concerned State Government.

(c) & (d): Tea Board implements programmes for Human Resource Development (HRD) under the XII Plan Scheme namely, Tea Development & Promotion Scheme. The HRD component is aimed at filling in critical gaps in the welfare of tea garden workers, particularly in health and education sector. A sum of Rs.50.00 crores has also been earmarked under the HRD component for the XII Plan period for Gap Funding to the State Governments in the major tea growing States in order to align with their activities through National Level Welfare Schemes implemented in tea gardens.

*****